

**Before the State of South Carolina
Department of Insurance**

In the matter of:

Mr. Christopher L. Atchison,
803 East North Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

SCDOI File Number 2004-121848

**Consent Order
Imposing Administrative Penalty and
Probationary Period**

This matter comes before me pursuant to an agreement entered into between the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance and Christopher L. Atchison, of Atchison Bonding Company, a licensed South Carolina resident Professional Bail Bondsman.

Upon review of this matter, I hereby find as fact that Christopher L. Atchison did use the services of one Vincent Campbell -an unlicensed individual- to perform the duties of a "runner," during the apprehension of fugitive Kris Webb, on June 19, 2003. Mr. Atchison acknowledges this and contends this failure resulted from inadvertence and oversight and not from any intent to avoid the requirements of the law. Nevertheless, these actions can ultimately lead to the revocation of his license to transact the business of surety bail bondsman in South Carolina, following a public hearing at the Administrative Law Judge Division pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 38-53-160 (Supp.2003).

Rather than awaiting the outcome of impending administrative disciplinary proceedings against him, Christopher Atchison and the Department agreed to submit the entire matter to me, along with their specific recommendation, for my summary decision. The consensual recommendation was that in lieu of the Department seeking to revoke Mr. Atchison's license, he would waive his right to a public hearing, immediately pay to the Department an administrative fine in the total amount of \$2,000.00 and be placed under one year Probationary Period.

Section 38-53-150(a) grants the Director of Insurance the authority to revoke "any license issued under this chapter for... (1) any cause sufficient to deny issuance of the original license"; (2) violation of any laws of this State relating to bail course or dealings under the license issued him by the Director"; (7) failure to comply with or violation of the provisions of Chapter 53 or of any order or regulation of the Director."

After a thorough review of the record, and pursuant to my findings of fact, I hereby conclude as a matter of law, that Christopher L. Atchison has violated S.C. Code Ann. § 38-53-80 (Supp. 2003). As a result, I can now take administrative disciplinary action against his resident surety agent's license, and his business' license. However, under the discretionary authority provided to me within S.C. Code Ann. § 38-53-150(B)(Supp. 2003), and after carefully considering the recommendation of the parties, I hereby impose against Mr. Atchison, Atchison Bonding Company, an administrative fine in the total amount of \$2,000.00 and place him on one year Probation.

Mr. Atchison must pay that fine within fifteen days of the date of my signature upon this consent order. If he does not timely pay that total fine amount, both his license to transact business as a professional bail bondsman and that of Atchison Bonding Company will be revoked without any further disciplinary proceedings.

The parties have reached this agreement through negotiation and compromise and in consideration of the Department having never taken any administrative disciplinary action against either Christopher L. Atchison or Atchison Bonding Company before, of Mr. Atchison being current with all of his monthly filings, and of his assurance that in the future he will comply with the State's insurance laws. The parties expressly agree and understand Christopher Atchison's payment of the agreed-upon penalty and compliance with the Probationary Period shall constitute full accord and satisfaction of this matter.

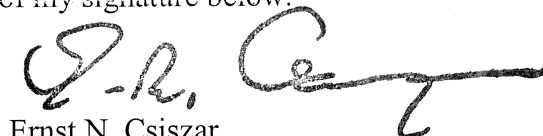
By his signature upon this consent order, Christopher L. Atchison acknowledges that he understands that this administrative order is a public record subject to the disclosure requirements of the State of South Carolina's *Freedom of Information Act*, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10, *et seq.* (1991 and Supp. 2003).

Nothing contained within this administrative order should be construed to limit, or to deprive any person of, any private right of action under the law. Nothing contained within this administrative order should be construed to limit, in any manner, the criminal jurisdiction of any law enforcement officer or judicial officer. Nothing contained within this administrative order should be construed to limit the statutory duty, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-110(3) (Supp. 2003), of the Director of Insurance, exercised either directly or through the Department of Insurance, to "report to the Attorney General or other appropriate law enforcement officials criminal violations of the laws relative to the business of insurance or the provisions of this title which he considers necessary to report."

It is, therefore, ordered that Christopher L. Atchison shall, within fifteen days of the date of my signature on this consent order, pay through the Department an administrative fine in the total amount of \$2,000.00 and be placed on one year Probation, thereafter.

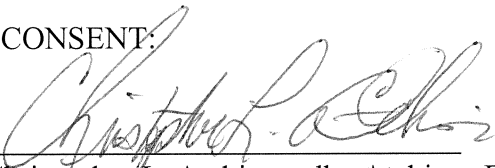
It is further ordered that a copy of this consent order be placed in Christopher Atchison's licensing file.

This consent order becomes effective as of the date of my signature below.


Ernst N. Csiszar
Director

August 11, 2004, at
Columbia, South Carolina

I CONSENT:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christopher L. Atchison", written over a horizontal line.

Christopher L. Atchison, dba Atchison Bonding Company
803 East North Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601.

Dated this 26th day of July, 2004